

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

17th Century English Melody, arr. Phillip Keveren

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that God has made!

Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Centering Words

Opening Song

Here In This Place

By Christopher Grundy

Ho - ly one _ may your pre - sence here o - pen our minds_ may your

_ Spi - rit a - mong us help us to find_ you are_ ris - ing up_ now

like a foun - tain of_ grace_ from the ho - ly ground

here in_ this place_ here in_ this place_

Call to Worship

One: We gather with all God's creatures in the circle of life.

Many: **We give thanks for the bond with our animal kin.**

One: We gather to ask God's blessing on those animals in our lives who inspire us to love, care and protect them.

Many: **We give thanks for the ways they enrich our days and touch our souls.**

One: We gather in wonder of the beauty and diversity of the animals in the wild, from the snowy owl to the majestic lion to the mole who scurries beneath the earth.

Many: **Inspire us to celebrate God's wonder in every living creature. AMEN.**

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ is with each of you.

Many: And also with you!

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Children's Moment

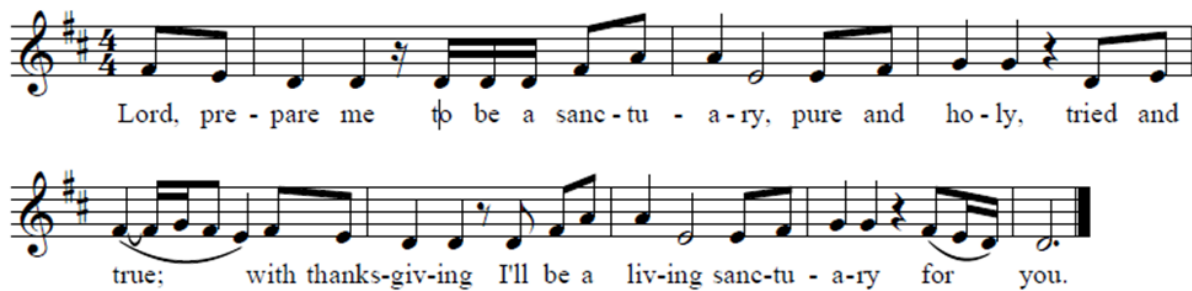
Rev. Karma Cloud

Offertory

Stewardship Moment

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Call to Prayer *Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary*



Prayers of the People

Response: One: God in your mercy,

Many: hear our prayers.

Lord's Prayer

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come.
Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kin-dom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response to Prayer *Bless Our God*



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

The Scripture Reading

Job 12:7-10

'But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
⁸ask the plants of the earth,^[a] and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
⁹Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
¹⁰In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

One: May God's wonder be revealed to us through the mystery of
these words.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

But Ask the Beasts

Words from Job 12, music by Christopher J. Hoh

Sermon

"Blessing From the Animals"

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Blessing of the Animals

All animals and their humans are welcome to form a circle around the labyrinth. Each creature will receive an individual blessing. If you have brought a picture of your animal, please bring that with you.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Song

Here in This Place

The Closing Commission

One: The spirit of God is upon us.

Many: **God has anointed us
to bear good news to the afflicted,
to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom to the captives,
to open the prisons of those who are bound.
Let us go forth in the name of Christ to bring
peace into broken relationships, healing to
alienated persons, action to protect our planet,
and justice into oppressive structures. AMEN.**

Benediction

Postlude

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing
From Geistliche Krickengesäng, arr. Michael Ware

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Ann Ralosky and Rev. John Rogers

Reader: Reginald Webber

Ushers: Dawn Colapietro and Stella Wilkins

Coffee Hour Hosts: Deb and Tim Duhamel

Coffee Hour Setup Team: Steve Cutaia, Tim Duhamel and Michael Harney

Music Leaders: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

FCC Band: Jania Bibighaus, Hans Ericson and Ray Lenzini

AV Techs: Aiden Longacre and Giancarlo Quesada

Peter Wert and Tom Rose made a donation to the food bank in celebration of the 13th anniversary of marriage equality in New Jersey and their own wedding, as consecrated by Rev. Ann at the very moment it became legal - midnight on October 21st, 2013.

You can support the food bank here: TinyUrl.com/SupportFoodBank

You can make a donation or sustaining gift online at any time!

There are many ways to give to FCC each Sunday. You can easily set up your sustaining gift, your Sunday Offering, or a one-time contribution ...using our new Church Center service.

ONLINE: Scan the QR Code below or go to <https://fccmtc.churchcenter.com/giving>

CHECK: If you give by check it must be made out to "First Congregational Church," (not "FCC") and can be put in the offertory basket, or mailed to:
40 So. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ, 07042. *Thank you.*



Upcoming Events

New Members' Inquiry Class Continues on Zoom

Been attending FCC and think we may be your spiritual home? Join us for our remaining Inquiry Classes on Zoom: Wednesdays Oct 21 and 28 at 7:30pm. See Rev. Ann to sign up!

Underground Church, October 24, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

(Usually meets every third Saturday)

An intimate and interactive worship experience that hearkens back to the early church.

Ongoing Events

Weekly Wednesday Labyrinth Walks 11am—1pm

Each Wednesday our labyrinth is open for spiritual walking. No experience necessary!

The Searcher's Bible Study on Zoom each Thursday Eve at 7pm

FCC member, Rev. Victor Peterson, will lead an engaging exploration of our scriptures.

"Women of a Certain Age", FIRST Fridays 11am-1pm in the FCC library

A gathering of friendship and conversation for women roughly over 65. Bring a bag lunch and any handcrafts you are working on. See Rev. Heather Cherrey for details.

Underground Church, October 24, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

(Usually meets every third Saturday)

An intimate and interactive worship experience that hearkens back to the early church.

Full Spectrum Spirituality (FSS) LGBTQ+ Gathering

We chat about life, spirituality, and whatever else comes up! If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Jordan at fullspectrum@fccmtc.com.

Green Team Ministry (usually 2nd Sundays) after worship in the FCC Library

Learn about FCC's creation care and climate justice initiatives; be part of planning.

For more details check the calendar on our "Upcoming Events" page:

<https://fccmontclair.org/upcoming-events-at-fcc/>